



Office of Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs • 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW Suite 805 South  
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## OAPIA E-NEWSLETTER

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### Citizen Summit III

Real Challenges. Real Choices.

Everyone knows we are living in “the land of the free” and in a “democratic society,” yet, sometimes these words are taken for granted; sometimes we forget that even in the land of the free and a democratic society, there are processes and we still need to speak out to have our voices heard.

This year, Mayor Anthony A. Williams will hold his Citizen Summit III on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003 at the new Washington Convention Center, Exhibit Hall A, 801 Mount Vernon Place N.W. from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Considered as “the largest ongoing town hall meeting in the United States,” Citizen Summit enables all District residents ages 13 and older to help shape the policies of the District government on healthcare, crime, education, housing, economic priorities, and neighborhood enhancement. Citizens from across the District continues to take this opportunity to voice their needs & views and give their input on important issues in a clear, organized, and measurable way with the help of experienced facilitators and electronic key pads while choosing the areas of spending priorities. As in past years, more than 3000 residents are expected to participate.

As Mayor Williams stated in his letter to all citizens: “The summit will help guide local leaders as they make the best decisions for our future. Input from the summit will be used to update the District’s Citywide Strategic Plan and the individual Strategic Neighborhood Action Plans (SNAPs). As in past years, the Citizen Summit will directly influence decisions on the District’s annual spending priorities and legislative initiatives.”

Last year, an overwhelming number of API community members participated in the Citizen Summit II. Old and young, everyone was excited to hear the different issues and challenges that the District is facing, to learn the process of voicing their inputs, and to learn the ways of a Democratic society. This year, OAPIA staff and API community-based organizations are committed to get more API participants.

Residents of the District of Columbia should be getting a letter from the Mayor including the registration form for the Citizen Summit III in the mail; however, residents can also register online at [www.citizensummit.dc.gov](http://www.citizensummit.dc.gov) or by calling (202) 727-0882. Residents with limited English proficiency are encouraged to call OAPIA at (202) 727-3120 to register.



## ***A Picture worth A Thousand Words...***

“I’m getting free food and two hours for community service for this Youth Empowerment Workshop, right?” one of the students confirmed before joining the group of students in the Multipurpose Room of Bell Multicultural High School on Monday, September 29, 2003. Most students started out attending the workshop because there was free food and they could count the two-hour workshop towards the one hundred hours community service required for graduation, some came to get information, and some came to be with friends. Regardless of the reason that brought the students to the workshop, by the end of the workshop, everyone walked away feeling better about themselves, equipped with information on gang violence, substance abuse, as well as preventive measures and phone numbers of where/how to get help if they ever need it in the nice green folders provided by DC Public Schools, excited that they now have two less hours of community service that they will have to complete before graduation which was approved by Bell Multicultural High School, and of course...full from the sandwiches & drinks provided by the Metropolitan Police Department.

Inspired by the recent gang violence activities in the District and the hearts to outreach to the youth, OAPIA and the Asian Liaison Unit (ALU) of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) approached the prevention program coordinator of Bell Multicultural High School to plan a Youth Empowerment Workshop for Bell High School Students. Soon after the initial planning meeting, Policing for Prevention, Asian Liaison Unit, Gang Intervention Partnership Unit, & 4D of the Metropolitan Police Department, Department of Health, Bell Multicultural High School, and DC Public Schools were all gladly to cosponsor the event. Representatives from all participating agencies and the Department of Justice engaged students to participate during the workshop, ask as many questions as possible. Additionally, volunteers helped open the line of communication from the students by soliciting responses during break out session and workshop evaluation.

Considering that the Youth Empowerment Workshop was a two-hour workshop held right after the long school day ended, none of the students fell dozed off and all participated in the workshop discussions. All participated speakers and volunteers smiled upon the completion the workshop and congratulated one another on the tasks well done: providing the students with information, increasing their awareness, opening the line of communication and the most challenging job of all...keeping them awake.





### ***Ward 1 Merchant Workshop...***

OAPIA completed its series of Merchant Workshop in fiscal year 2003 with Ward 1 Merchant Workshop on September 30, 2003. OAPIA along with the Office of Latino Affairs, the office of community Outreach, Asian Liaison Unit of Metropolitan Police Department organized this workshop to help Ward 1 merchants to get small business related regulations and programs information and updates. Government representatives from the office of Tax & Revenue, Department of Consumer & Regulatory Administration, MPD 3<sup>rd</sup> District and 4<sup>th</sup> District, Asian and Latino Liaison Unit, Small Business Administration of federal Government came to make presentations. Subjects on small business loans, cigarette tax stamps, basic business licenses, and safety sparked the interests of local merchants.

OAPIA plans to continue extensive outreach to the API merchant community in FY04.

**Employment**



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- Office of Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) is expanding and in the process of hiring two more staff: Community Outreach Coordinator and Staff Assistant. Please email cover letter and resume to [greg.chen@dc.gov](mailto:greg.chen@dc.gov). For more details, visit [www.dcop.dc.gov](http://www.dcop.dc.gov) or [www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com) under "Government and Policy" section or search key word "Asian Affairs DC" or call 202-727-3120. Deadline for consideration is October 20, 2003.
- DC Chartered Health Plan has three positions open until filled: Utilization Management Director for Medical Affairs, Compliance Manager for External Affairs and Compliance, and Claim Manager for Claim Department. Please call Erika Lewis at 202- 408-2238 Ext 2238 for more details.